

CLEAN COPY OF ALL PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A ureteral stent for assisting in the drainage of fluid from a body cavity comprising:
 - an elongated member comprising a distal end and a proximal end and defining a first lumen extending therebetween; and
 - a valve disposed at the proximal end of the elongated member, the valve comprising:
 - a tube defining a second lumen in fluid connection with the first lumen, the tube comprising a first end connected to the proximal end of the elongated member, and a socket;
 - a shaft at least partially disposed in the socket; and
 - a stopper connected to the shaft that occludes the second lumen when exposed to retrograde pressure.
2. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the shaft is fixed in the socket.
3. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 2, wherein the stopper comprises a deformable film.
4. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the shaft is axially translatable in the socket.
5. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 4, wherein the shaft is tapered inwardly toward the stopper and the socket is tapered inwardly toward the stopper, both preventing complete removal of the shaft from the socket.
6. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 4, wherein the valve further comprises a spring disposed in the socket that is biased to open the valve in the absence of a retrograde pressure.

7. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the tube further defines at least one additional lumen in fluid connection with the first lumen, wherein the second lumen and the additional lumen are disposed about the periphery of the socket.

8. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the stopper comprises a substantially circular surface and the shaft is attached to the stopper at the center of the circular surface.

9. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the stopper further comprises a lip disposed about the periphery of a distal surface of the stopper.

10. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the stopper comprises a substantially hemispherical surface and the shaft is attached to the stopper at the center of the hemispherical surface.

11. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the stopper comprises a substantially wedge-shaped section.

14. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, further comprising a retention structure extending distally from the distal end of the elongated member.

15. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 14, wherein the retention structure further defines a passageway extending between an opening and the first lumen.

16. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, further comprising a retention structure extending from the stopper.

17. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 16, wherein the retention structure is a lip disposed about a periphery of the stopper having a perimeter wider than the proximal end of the elongated member.

18. (Amended) A valve for preventing reflux of fluids in a ureteral stent comprising:
a tube defining a lumen having a first end and a second end, and a socket;
a shaft at least partially disposed in the socket; and

a stopper attached to the shaft that occludes the lumen when exposed to retrograde pressure.

19. (Amended) The valve of claim 18, wherein the shaft is fixed in the socket.

20. (Amended) The valve of claim 19, wherein the stopper comprises a deformable film.

21. (Amended) The valve of claim 18, wherein the shaft is axially translatable in the socket.

22. (Amended) The valve of claim 21, wherein the shaft is tapered inwardly toward the stopper and the socket is tapered inwardly toward the stopper, both preventing complete removal of the shaft from the socket.

23. (Amended) The valve of claim 18, wherein the valve further comprises a spring disposed in the socket that is biased to open the valve in the absence of retrograde pressure.

24. (Amended) The valve of claim 18, wherein the tube further defines at least one additional lumen, wherein the first lumen and the additional lumen are disposed about the periphery of the socket.

25. (Amended) The valve of claim 18, wherein the stopper comprises a substantially circular surface and the shaft is attached to the stopper at the center of the circular surface.

26. (Amended) The valve of claim 18, wherein the stopper further comprises a lip disposed about the periphery of a distal surface of the stopper.

27. (Amended) The valve of claim 18, wherein the stopper comprises a substantially hemispherical surface and the shaft is attached to the stopper at the center of the hemispherical surface.

28. (Amended) The valve of claim 18, wherein the stopper comprises a substantially wedge-shaped section.

29. (Amended) A method of assisting the drainage of fluid from a body cavity, the method comprising:

providing a ureteral stent comprising:

an elongated member comprising a distal end and a proximal end and defining a first lumen extending therebetween; and

a valve disposed at the proximal end of the elongated member, the valve comprising:

a tube defining a second lumen in fluid connection with the first lumen, the tube comprising a first end connected to the proximal end of the elongated member, and a socket;

a shaft at least partially disposed in the socket; and

a stopper connected to the shaft that occludes the second lumen when exposed to retrograde pressure; and

inserting said device into a ureter.

30. (Amended) A ureteral stent for assisting in the drainage of fluid from a body cavity, comprising:

an elongated member comprising a distal end and a proximal end and defining a first lumen extending therebetween;

a seat defined by the elongated member;

a shoulder defined by the elongated member proximal to the seat; and

a ball disposed in the elongated member between the seat and the shoulder that occludes the first lumen when exposed to retrograde pressure.

31. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 30, wherein the elongated member defines at least one slot between the seat and the shoulder.

32. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 30, further comprising a retention structure defining a second lumen in fluid connection with the first lumen.

33. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 32, wherein the shoulder is defined by an interface between the elongated member and the retention structure.

34. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 32, wherein the retention structure has a pigtail shape.

35. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 30, comprising a retention structure extending from the distal end of the elongated member.

36. (Amended) The ureteral stent of claim 35, wherein the retention structure further defines a passageway extending between an opening and the first lumen.

39. (Amended) A method of preventing reflux of fluids in a ureteral stent, the method comprising:

providing a ureteral stent comprising:
an elongated member comprising a distal end and a proximal end and defining a first lumen extending therebetween,
a seat defined by the elongated member,
a shoulder defined by the elongated member proximal to the seat, and
a ball disposed in the elongated member between the seat and the shoulder that occludes the first lumen when exposed to retrograde pressure; and
inserting said device into a ureter.